General remarks
- Gullah = Geechee = Sea Island Creole
- South Carolina and Georgia
- Source:
  o generally accepted idea: mixture of African and English varieties
  o period of Atlantic slave-trade
- African elements in Gullah:
  o Congo-Angola
  o Gambia
  o Windward Coast (Sierra Leone, Liberia)
  o Gold Coast (Ghana)

Phonology
- Vowels:
  o STRUT-vowel [ʌ] realised as [ɔ]
  o FACE-diphthong [eɪ] realised as [eː]
  o GOAT-diphthong [ou] realised as [oː]
- Consonants:
  o Fricative stopping
    - Realisation of [d] and [t] (and sometimes even [s]) instead of dental fricatives
      [θ] and [ð] > Thank you = Tank you = Sank you
  o Word-initial [h]-deletion
    - Also interchangeable use of [hi] and [i]: can have phonological reason (same
      process at work that turns happy into ‘api) or it can have morphological
      reason (use of gender-neutral pronoun [i])
- Gullah lexical set:
  o Speaker information: Dorothy, in her 60s, Mount Pleasant South Carolina

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Morphology and syntax

- Specific habitual marker duhz [dəz]
  - How you duhz make pie?
  - You ain duhz make no pie?
- Perfect done [dən]
  - to express “emphasis on the completion of the activity or its relevance to the reference time” (Kortmann et al. vol.2 p562)
  - Uh done eat dat one
  - Also in combination with verb stem or stative verb phrase:
    - He brother done dead
    - Uh kin tell you wha I done been tru
  - Post-verbally to indicate “completion with no intent on the part of the subject to re-engage him/herself in the activity” (Kortmann et al. vol.2 p.563)
    - Uh talk done
- Acrolect, mesolect, basilect
  - Acrolect: approximates most closely the standard variety
  - Mesolect: intermediate between acrolect and basilect
  - Basilect: most distincts from acrolect
- Plural marking:
  - Mesolectal Gullah: suffix –s
    - Deers, firemens
  - Basilectal Gullah: dem
    - Dem boy
  - Associative plural: dem or nem after proper name or definite noun phrase
    - Sara (an’) dem/nem

Sound fragment
(http://linguafranka.net/gullahbibl/audio/easter.mp3)

Gullah Nyew Testament –
John 20: 1-10 (The resurrection)

1Aaly een de maanin, de fus day ob de week, wen de place been still daak, Mary Magdalene gone ta de tomb. E see dat de stone wa dey been pit oba de door ob de tomb fa kiba um been moob fom dey. 2Mary ton back an ron ta Simon Peter an de oda ciple, de one wa Jedus lob. E tell um say, “Dey done tek way de Lawd body outta de tomb an we ain know wa dey done wid um!”
3So Peter an de oda ciple staat off ta de tomb. 4Bof dem beena ron, bot de oda ciple ron mo fast den Peter, so e git ta de tomb fus. 5E bend oba an e look eenside de tomb. An e see jes dem piece ob linen closs dey, wa de two man dem been nyuse fa wrop op Jedus body. Bot dat ciple ain gone eenside de tomb. 6Den Simon Peter, wa come hine um, git ta de tomb too. E gone eenside de tomb an e see dem piece ob linen closs da lay dey. 7An e see de closs wa dey been nyuse fa wrop roun Jedus head. Dat been pon no da side, folo op by esef. 8Den de oda ciple, wa fus git ta de tomb, gone eenside too. Wen e see all dat, e bleebe. 9Stillyet dey ain ondastan wa done been write een God Book, dat say dat Jedus haffa git op fom mongst de dead an lib gin. 10Den de ciple dem gone back ta dey house.